

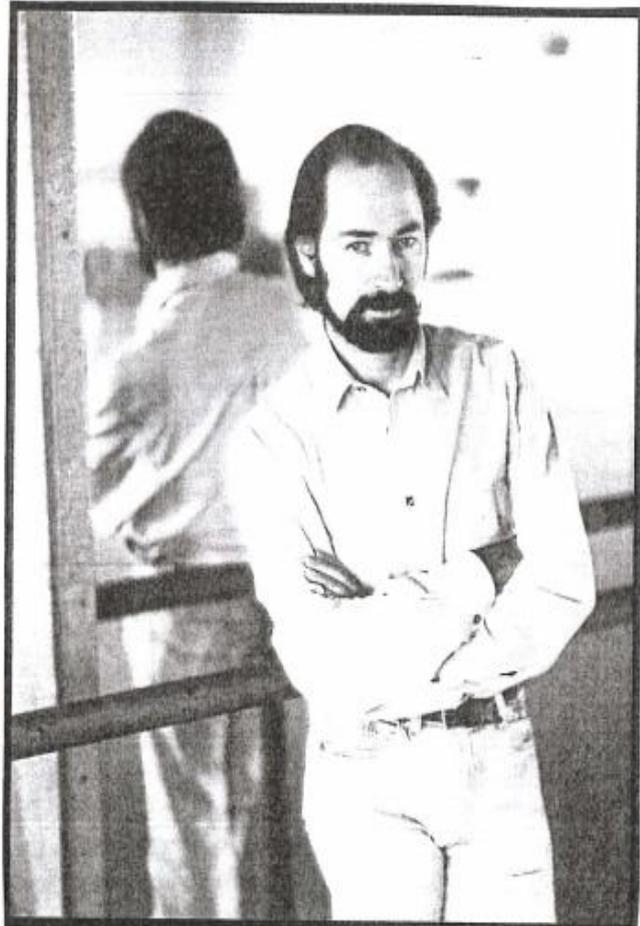
Y12 – Preparation Work for AS Dance.

Who is Christopher Bruce???

The Choreographer - Christopher Bruce

Biographical Details....

1. Training Background and Bruce as a Dancer.
 - Bruce's Influences.
 - His association at Ballet Rambert.
2. Bruce as a Choreographer.
 - Themes in his Choreography.
 - **Characteristics of Style**
 - Music and Design Features.
3. Bruce as an Artistic Director
 - Rambert Dance Company.
4. The Creation of Rooster
5. Bruce's Other Works...
 - Swansong
 - Ghost Dances
 - Summarise the Choreographic Intent.



Summer Holiday Task....

1. Using the resource packs provided, create a document that builds the biographical details of Christopher Bruce. You can do this via power-point/mind-maps/posters/notes etc.
2. Using the headings detailed above as a guide for your research and exploration.
3. The highlighted (characteristics of Style) featured below gives you a guide towards depth and expectations.
4. Bring to lesson in September where we will continue to study the work of Christopher Bruce.

Example – Characteristics of Style

Examining the movement and style characteristics of Christopher Bruce as a choreographer...

Dance Style - TECHNIQUE	Movement Style – PATTERNS IN CHOREOGRAPHY
Blending of Classical Ballet and Graham Technique. Influenced by Walter Gore, Norman Morrice and Glen Tetley. Bruce provided an early demonstration of what blending the styles could offer.	Motif Development with strong symbolic and/or repeating images to highlight emotional intensity.
Ballet Influences – Lyrical and fluid use of energy. Recognisable vocabulary, extended lines, soaring elevations.	Episodic Structures linked to thematic content and/or music structures.
Graham Influences – Torso contractions, angular and abrupt gestures, flexed feet, sense of weight, low centre of gravity.	Music Visualisation and mood enhancement, using a wide range of musical sources.
Blending of other Styles depending on music/theme. Jazz, tap, social/popular dance linked to era, folk, small heel toe actions, pedestrian gestures.	Generally preferring bare stages and atmospheric lighting to convey mood.
Selects dancers for personal strengths, requires strong musical and expressive qualities.	Serious themes in the main using literature, history, social, political, popular culture, autobiographical experiences.

Further Examples that define Christopher Bruce as a practitioner.

- His work has a clear thematic base, even if they are non-narrative. He frequently demonstrates a strong sense of character.
- He enjoys revisiting previous scenes as a way of instilling an idea into the audience e.g. ROOSTER (1991) & SWANSONG (1987)
- Uses symbolic repetition to shape the structure of many of his works, images to open and close
- He likes his dancers to have their own interpretation of a theme or dance, and to have a strong sense of musicality and characterization.
- Open to interpretation - Bruce prefers an audience to keep an open mind about his works, often avoiding programme notes and specific statements. However he does recognise that his pieces are concerned with ideas rather than abstract dance and there is usually strong imagery.